AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 to 9. (Canceled)

10. (New) A process for preparing glyoxylic esters, which comprises:

a) transesterifying a glyoxylic ester hemiacetal directly with an alcohol in the presence of a dialkyltin catalyst and then

b) cleaving the transesterified hemiacetal of step a) to give the free glyoxylic ester or its hydrate.

11. (New) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the glyoxylic acid ester hemiacetals used are glyoxylic acid methyl ester, ethyl ester, n-propyl ester, isopropyl ester, or t- or n-butyl ester hemiacetals.

12. (New) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the transesterification is performed using a chiral or nonchiral, primary, secondary or tertiary alcohol.

13. (New) The process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the alcohol used is an acyclic, monocyclic, bicyclic terpene alcohol, an acyclic, monocyclic or tricyclic sesquiterpene alcohol, di- or triterpene alcohol.

14. (New) The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the catalyst used is dialkyltin dicarboxylate having 1-12 carbon atoms in the alkyl moiety.

15. (New) A process for preparing glycoxylic esters, which comprises

a) converting a glyoxylic ester hemiacetal into the corresponding glyoxylic ester acetal,

b) transesterifying said acetal in the presence of a dialkyl tin catalyst and

c) cleaving the transesterified acetal to the free glyoxylic ester or its hydrate.

16. (New) The process according to claim 15 wherein the catalyst is a dialkyl tin dicarboxylate having 1-12 carbon atoms in the alkyl moiety.